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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DAILY KOREAN SUMMARY

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Date: 16/2/78 By: 023I. Military SituationHighlights

Revitalized enemy forces in the area north of Yongbyon have forced withdrawals by two ROK divisions and have isolated small elements of the US 1st Cavalry Division. ROK troops on the east coast entered the communication center of Kilchu without meeting opposition. Minor enemy air activity continued in the northwest area.

Ground

Strong enemy forces launched attacks of increasing intensity against the 8th Cavalry Regiment north of Yongbyon in the Unsan area, and, although the attacks were repulsed, elements of the regiment have been isolated. To the east of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, the ROK 7th and 8th Divisions withdrew under enemy pressure to new defense positions extending from three miles east of Yongbyon through Won-ni south to Kaecheon. Elements of the US 24th Division maintained their positions along the roads leading to Sinuiju and Spong-dong on the Yalu River. On the east coast, elements of the ROK Capital Division entered the undefended rail center of Kilchu. In southern Korea, UN forces continued aggressive patrols against enemy remnants.

Navy

Numerous mines have been sighted in the harbor and approaches to Chinnampo on the west coast near Pyongyang and mine sweeping continues on both coasts.

Air

The US 5th Air Force reports that three unidentified aircraft made passes at a UN observation plane; the pilot described the

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craft as a jet type with modified swept back wings. There were three isolated incidents of light enemy aerial bombing and strafing of US 24th Division positions. UN aircraft flew 503 sorties, including bombing strikes on Chongjin, Nanam, and Kanggye.

II. General Situation

Embassy Seoul urges that Bank of Korea (South Korean currency) notes be used in North Korea. The adoption of South Korean currency would be justified as a matter of military necessity to prevent the early economic collapse of the area north of the 38th Parallel and to eliminate as soon as possible the artificial economic barriers between North and South Korea.

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